

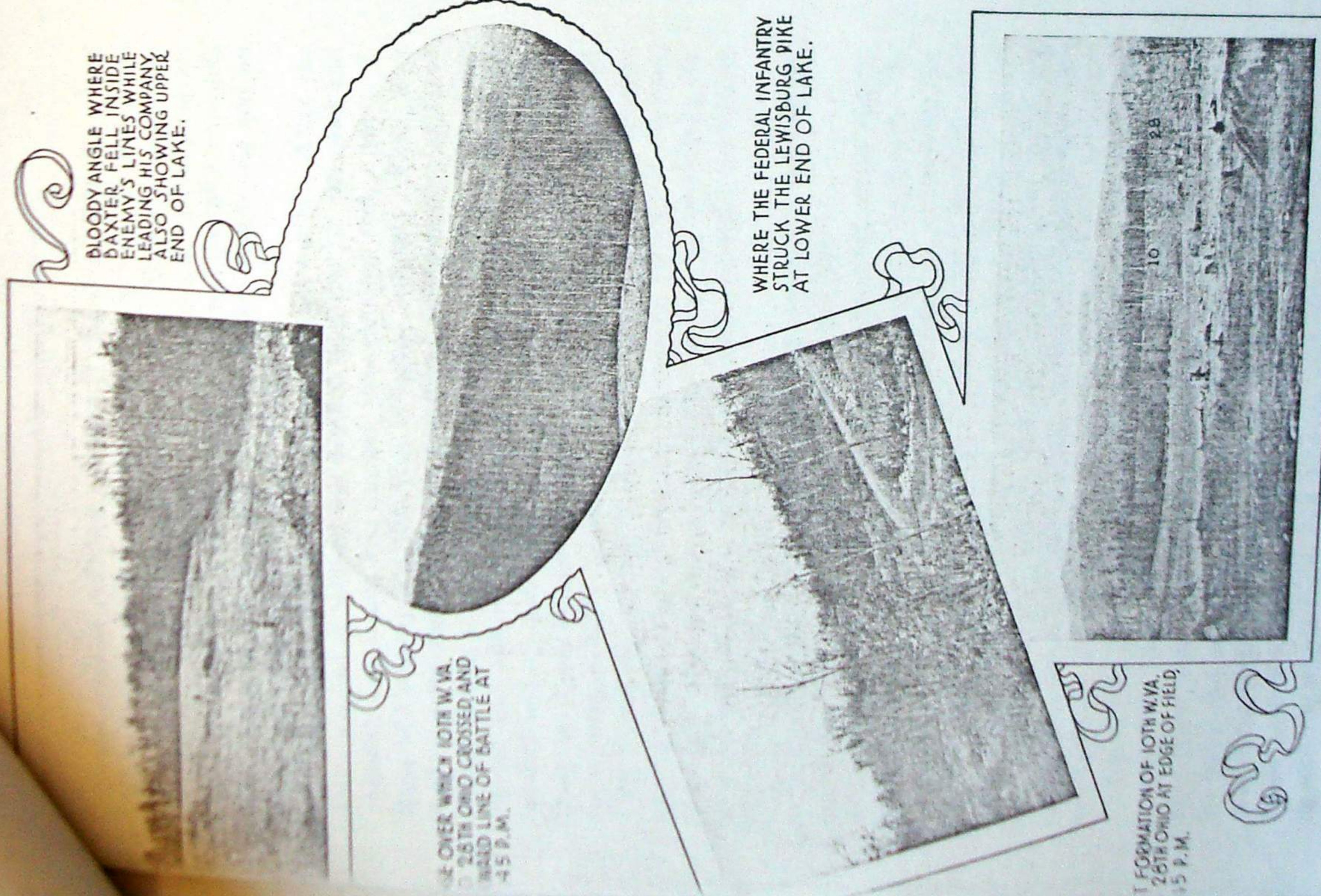
Incidents

Your Commission has tried to so mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which we have planted and the maps which we have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Colonel Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion, was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were giving back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in his report, "just in the nick of time," turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time, the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a fall fence into the ranks of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our Chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied, but rushed up and kicked two or three rails off of the fence and they both jumped over the fence and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. The man who shot Barnett gave his life



BLOODY ANGLE WHERE DAXTER, FELL INSIDE ENEMY'S LINES WHILE LEADING HIS COMPANY ALSO SHOWING UPPER END OF LAKE.

WHERE THE FEDERAL INFANTRY STRUCK THE LEWISBURG PIKE AT LOWER END OF LAKE.

LOOK OVER WHICH 10TH W.VA. 26TH OHIO CROSSED AND BARRIED LINE OF BATTLE AT 4.5 P.M.

THE FORMATION OF 10TH W.VA. 26TH OHIO AT EDGE OF FIELD, 4.5 P.M.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

for the cause he espoused. George H. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shover were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. They occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few moments after the Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of courage and daring.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light he discovered for a certainty that the man was his brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newlon, many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew the lifeless body of his brother.

This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever, to our knowledge, been recorded in the annals of warfare.

After the battle, a young woman was observed going among the Confederates, looking intently into the face of each one. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George." She was the guest at the house of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davison, of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, its heart rending scenes, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordnance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said "Damned if I know." Sisler said he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the

team of General Echols' ordnance wagon, became frightened, and whirled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after the war people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Major Henry H. Withers, of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, was a brave and fearless fighter. At the battle of Cedar Creek, he was rallying his men and getting hot, he threw off his coat and having on a gray shirt got mixed up with some prisoners that were being taken to the rear, and was arrested for an enemy and taken some distance to the rear, before his identity was known. He fought with great bravery at Droop Mountain.

Dr. T. M. Harris, of Harrisville, W. Va., was a physician of note, and when the Civil War came on he recruited the 10th West Virginia Infantry Regiment and became its Colonel. He served with distinction through the war. He commanded a division in the campaign from Richmond to Appomattox. Our Chairman, Mr. Sutton, saw him win his star, under the immediate eye of General Grant, at Fort Gregg, in the final assault on the Confederate defense at Petersburg, Virginia.

Hamilton Griggs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for a story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain he passed to a section so rough that he dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said: "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Hon. Felix Sutton sent the following list of killed and wounded in the 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Name	Rank	Co.	Remarks
James Pickens,	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
Samuel Swecker,	Private	A	Gunshot wound through left leg
George Walton,	Private	A	Gunshot wound in knee joint, right side
Benj. Moore,	Private	C	Gunshot wound in left hip, ball retained
Isaac Burkhammer,	Private	C	Gunshot wound through left forearm
George Osborn,	Corporal	C	Gunshot wound through right arm
Franklin Fisher,	Private	D	Gunshot wound right thigh, middle third
John Queen,	Private	D	Gunshot wound through left shoulder

- A. R. Hays, Private..... D Gunshot wound through right arm above and below elbow
- William Sabin, Sergt..... E Gunshot wound through little finger
- John Forester, Private..... D Gunshot wound right hand
- James H. Dudd, Corporal..... E Gunshot wound in left knee joint retained
- Wm. M. Bennett, Private..... F Gunshot wound through right leg near knee joint
- John Blatt, Private..... F Gunshot wound right ankle, serious involving joint
- Newton Squires, Private..... F Gunshot wound top of right shoulder
- E. B. Wheeler, Private..... F Gunshot wound through left shoulder
- Jacob Kiffin, Private..... F Gunshot wound through left arm, shattered humerus
- Silas M. Morrison, Private..... F Gunshot wound through both arms
- Adrian Wilson, Private..... F Gunshot wound through middle, ring and little fingers
- George C. Gillispie, Private..... F Gunshot wound through left leg
- William Roblyson, Private..... F Gunshot wound through left forearm
- John Roblyson, Private..... F Gunshot wound through middle finger right hand
- Coleman Wyatt, Private..... G Gunshot wound in abdomen, flesh wound
- M. A. Jeffries, Corporal..... G Gunshot wound in left thigh
- Namrod Weiss, Private..... H Gunshot wound in right side, perforating bowels
- James M. Randle, Private..... H Gunshot wound in left thigh, lower third, flesh wound

KILLED

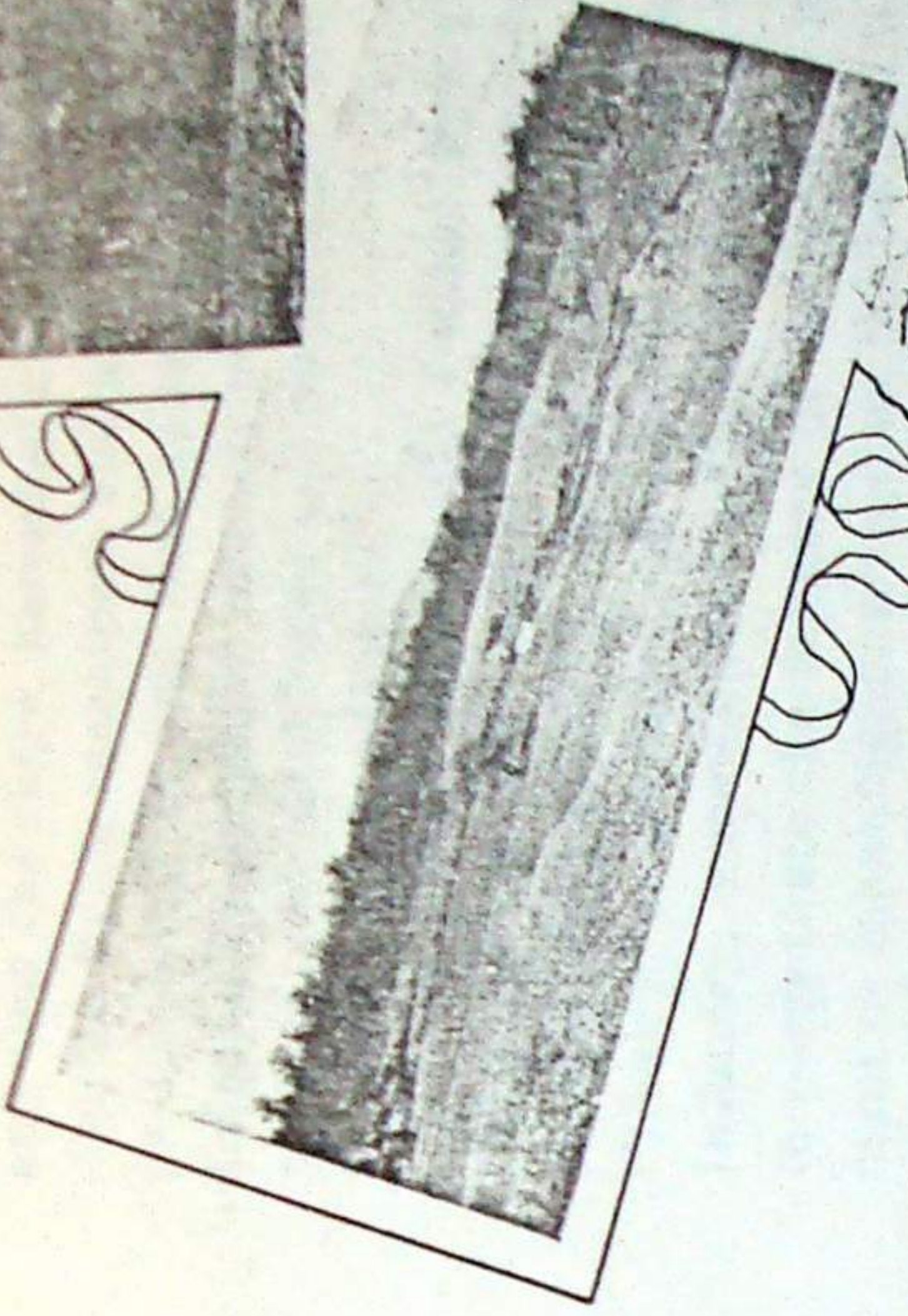
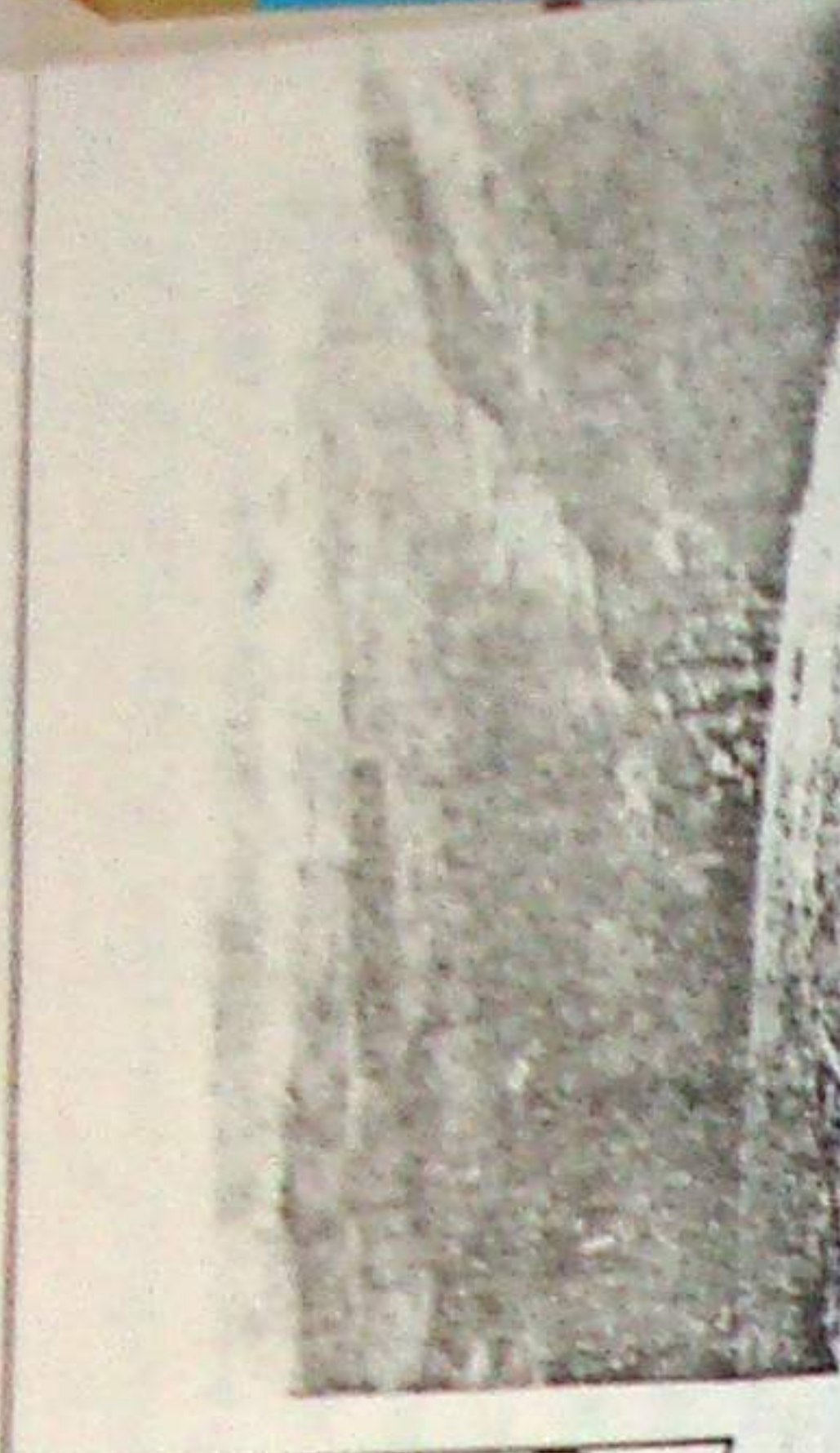
- B. Curry, Sergeant..... A Gunshot in head
- G. I. Shaw, Private..... A Gunshot mortally
- Chas. Bryson, Private..... D Gunshot in head
- M. Shriver, Private..... E Gunshot mortally
- John D. Baxter, O. S..... F Gunshot in bowels
- Coleman Channel, Captain..... H Gunshot mortally
- David Sanders, Private..... H Gunshot mortally
- Wesley Pullens, Private..... H Gunshot mortally

Five killed and twenty-one wounded in 28th Ohio; their orderly sergeant, Company F, killed.

Since attention has been called to the Droop Mountain Battlefield great interest has been shown all over the State, and being situated as it is on one of the paved highways of the State, no greater attraction can be shown than the great scenic views of the mountains and rivers, and the rich valley, lying at its base, together with the battlefield, will make Droop Mountain one of the nation's leading attractions, and will advertise West Virginia, as nothing else could do.

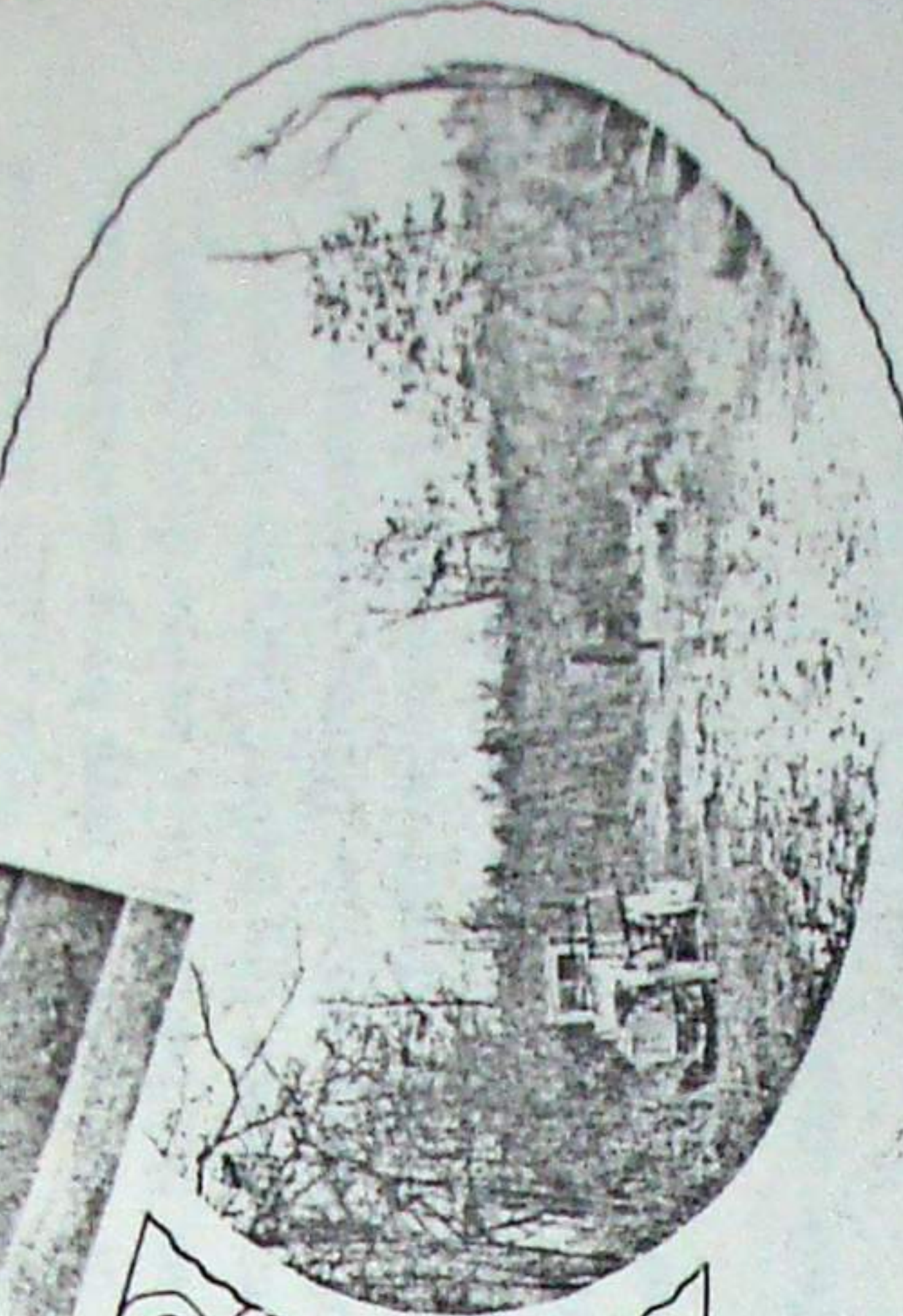
We wish to call your attention to the fact that the effort that is being put forth for the development and beautifying the battlefield has met the hearty response of every old soldier, living of either army, and has the universal approval of the citizens of the State,

LOCUST CREEK, FROM BREAST WORKS

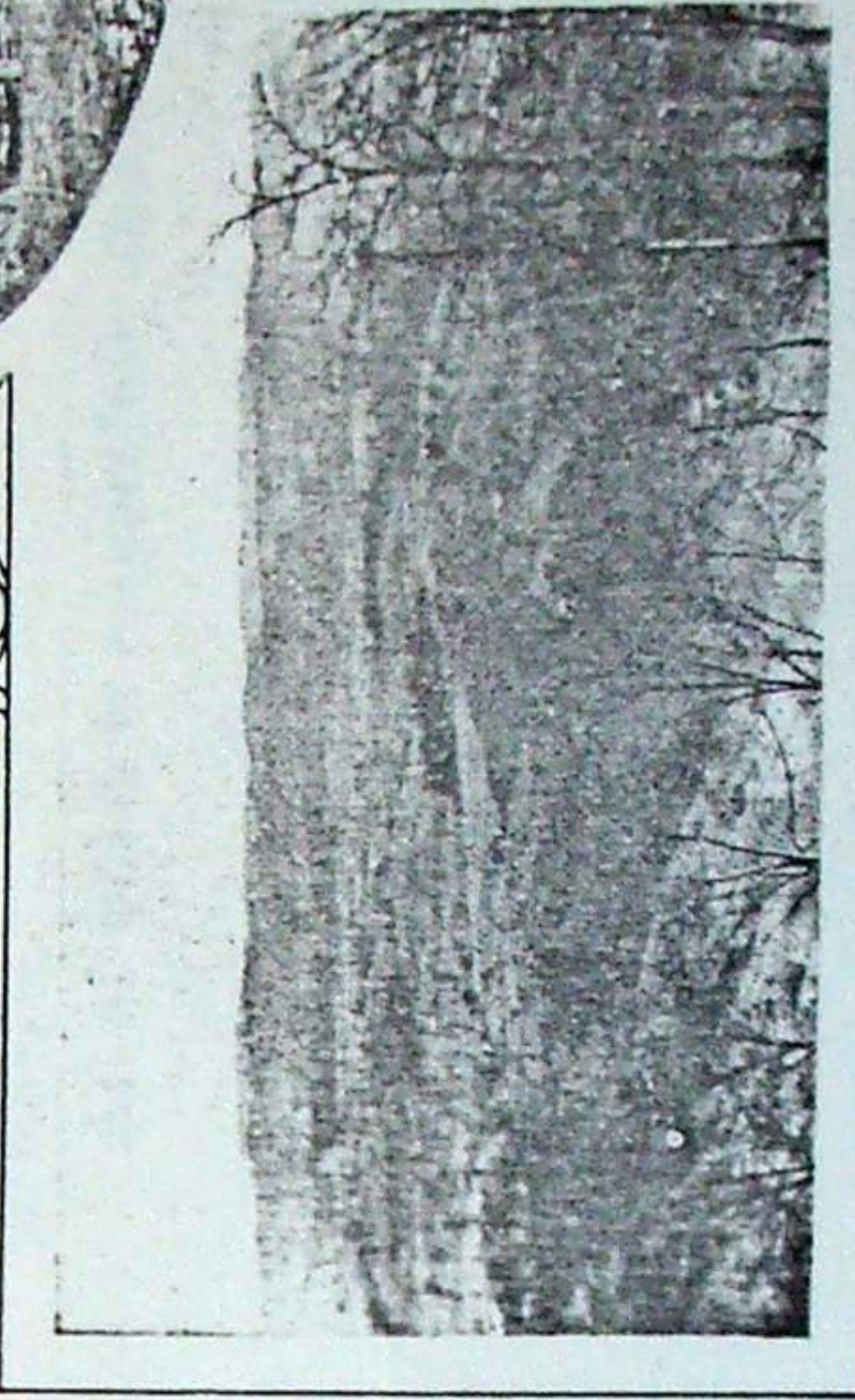


MCCARTY FARM, SHOWING GORES GROVE AND STATE ROAD # 24

MARKER ON OLD ROAD WHERE MAJOR BAILEY FELL WHILE TRYING TO RALLY THE 22ND VIRGINIA INFANTRY. STATE ROAD # 24.



EWING'S BATTERY, 320 POLES EAST OF LURTY'S BATTERY, BY GROVE OF TREES.



LOOKING FROM BREAST WORKS TO HILLSBORO, SHOWING YANKEE FLATS, AND WHITE HOUSE TO LEFT GENERAL AVERELL'S HEADQUARTERS ON NIGHT BEFORE THE BATTLE.



Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

West Virginia Historical Society at a recent meeting, in Charleston, passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That we, the West Virginia Historical Society earnestly commend the Droop Mountain Battle Field Commission for their labors and zeal, in acquiring title to the land on which the battle was fought, and for the work that has been done and the effort that is being made for the improvement and beautifying one of the greatest natural scenic views of the State; and that funds should be appropriated to carry on the work that the Commission has begun.

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are hereby extended to Governor Gore for the aid he has given the Battlefield Commission in its work, and

Resolved, further, That the memory of the brave men, of both armies, who fought the memorable battle of Droop Mountain, should be perpetuated for all time by monuments and parks, and the battle's history, and that the State should no longer neglect this historic battlefield in beautifying a spot, drenched with the blood of her own sons, around which cluster so many sacred memories of the dead."

Your Commission further reports that the land optioned is not complete, nor can it be made so, without acquiring the fifteen acres reserved. This your commission would recommend should be done, at a reasonable price, to be agreed upon by the parties in interest.

We wish to call special attention to the topography of the mountain. There is a straight ridge running north and south, through the greater part of the land optioned. This ridge is smooth and rises to the north and would make a fine field for airplanes to operate.

Another matter of special interest is an ancient lake that was discovered by the Chairman of your Commission. Its outline is plainly marked and shows it to have been a magnificent lake of water, but the countless ages have encroached upon its shores, until it is covered over with elder brush, moss and vines. Its waters flow out from the end of the lake, and with two small fills would, in all probability, be sufficient to impound the waters, to a depth of several feet, and a driveway around the lake would be about one mile in length, and we believe that the magnitude of the lake, covering about fifteen acres, would support millions of mountain trout.

Your Commission would recommend that the land optioned should be purchased and a deed obtained and the title to the fifteen

acres reserved should also be obtained and that an appropriation of \$35,000.00 may be made for the payment of the lands and to carry on the work of improvement as rapidly as possible, and we would further recommend that the marketable timber on the lands be sold and that the ridge, hereinbefore referred to, should be made accessible for flying machines; and also that the water of the lake should be impounded; and that suitable driveways and other attractive features be prepared as early as possible and that ultimately a great park may be established and maintained that would be equal at least to those in other states.

Your Commission would further recommend that your Excellency call the attention of the Governors of Pennsylvania and Ohio to the very valuable service rendered by the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Schoonmaker, and the 28th Ohio Infantry, commanded by Colonel Moor, as these states might desire to perpetuate the memory of those brave men by a suitable monument or monuments placed on the battle lines where they fought.

Your Commission here expresses the belief that by the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money on the Droop Mountain Battlefield that it would become such an attractive resort and of a value to the State beyond estimation in dollars and cents, and that the same would produce a patriotic sentiment that would forever be blended and clustered around the field that holds so many sacred memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JNO. D. SUTTON,
N. F. KENDALL,
R. F. KIDD,
M. M. HARRISON,
A. L. HELMICK.

The Droop Mountain Battle

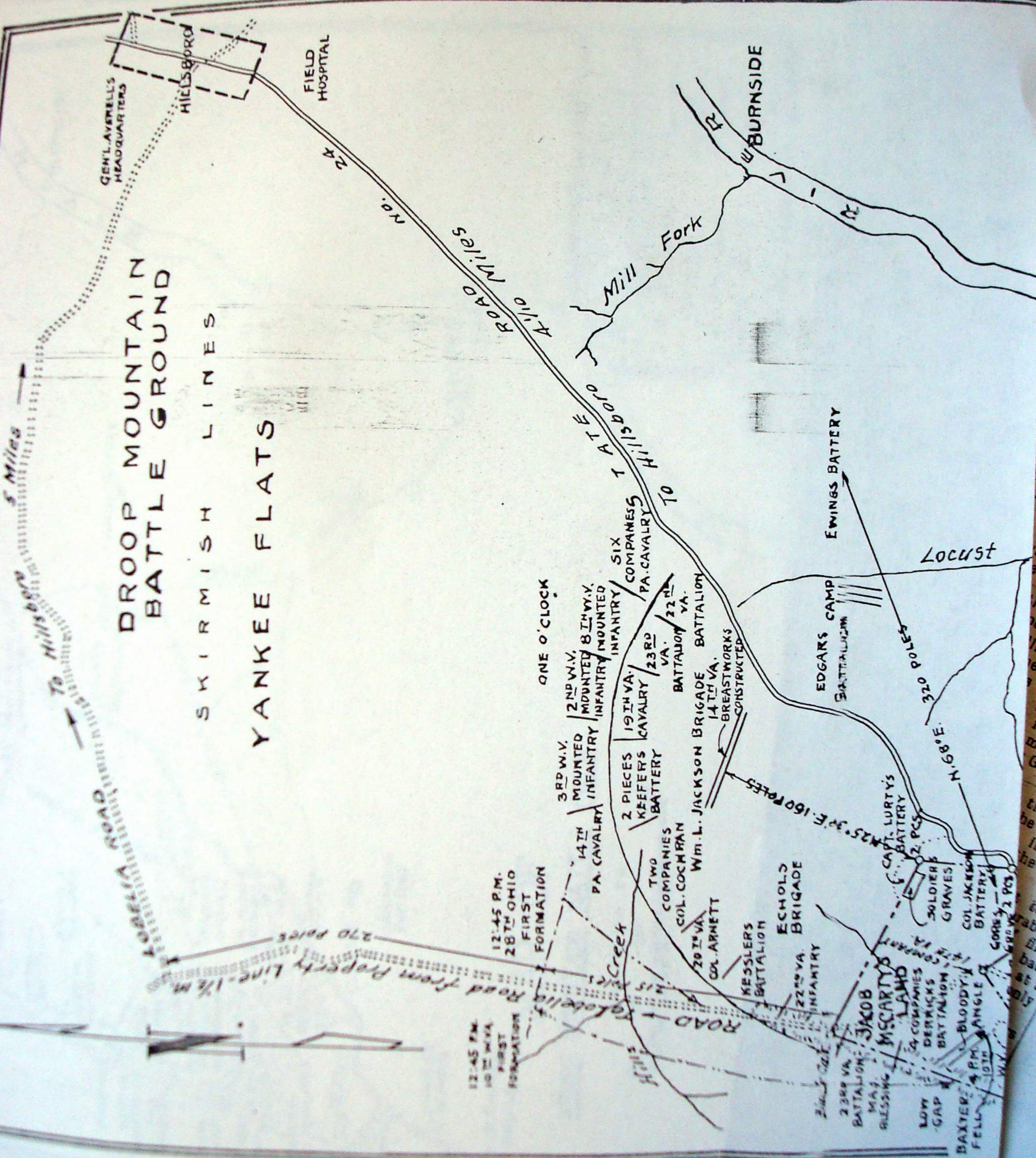
(A paper prepared by John D. Sutton)

After the country was freed from Indian invasions and Virginia became established, the people began to look more to their financial affairs and public interests. It was not long until those west of the Alleghenys became jealous of their eastern brethren. Tobacco was the money crop of the east, raised by slave labor, whilst those west of the mountains depended for many years upon furs and gaming as their principal commodity in trade. And as it has been from the beginning of time taxation began to be agitated. The great body of the east escaped very largely from their equal share of the burden, but controlled very largely the political affairs of the state. The western portion of the state was powerless. Their only relief was in separation. The Civil War afforded them that opportunity; hence when the war came on, 32,000 of the young men of Western Virginia joined the Union forces. Though they were living in a slave state the great majority refused to answer the call of Virginia, and when the 20th of June, 1863, came, and West Virginia was admitted as a state into the union, the defenders of the new state were determined to sustain and defend the state at whatever cost of blood and treasure. The south was as fully determined to retain the territory of the state, and to prevent the rendering of the state—a state for which we all have the most profound love and respect. But a sacrifice had to be made and the battle was joined—a battle of separation. The best blood of Virginia and West Virginia, men who had met on many bloody battlefields prior to the great Battle of Droop Mountain, soldiers inured to hardship and dangers, not soldiers of fortune, not soldiers for spoil, but men in whose breasts was a living principle, a principle implanted in their youth by their fathers. At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on November 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General Wm. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force near Mill Point on the morning of the 5th and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there

10.158 - CLARK & REES, INC. ENGINEERS & GEOLOGISTS - CHAS.

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLE GROUND

SKIRMISH LINES
YANKEE FLATS



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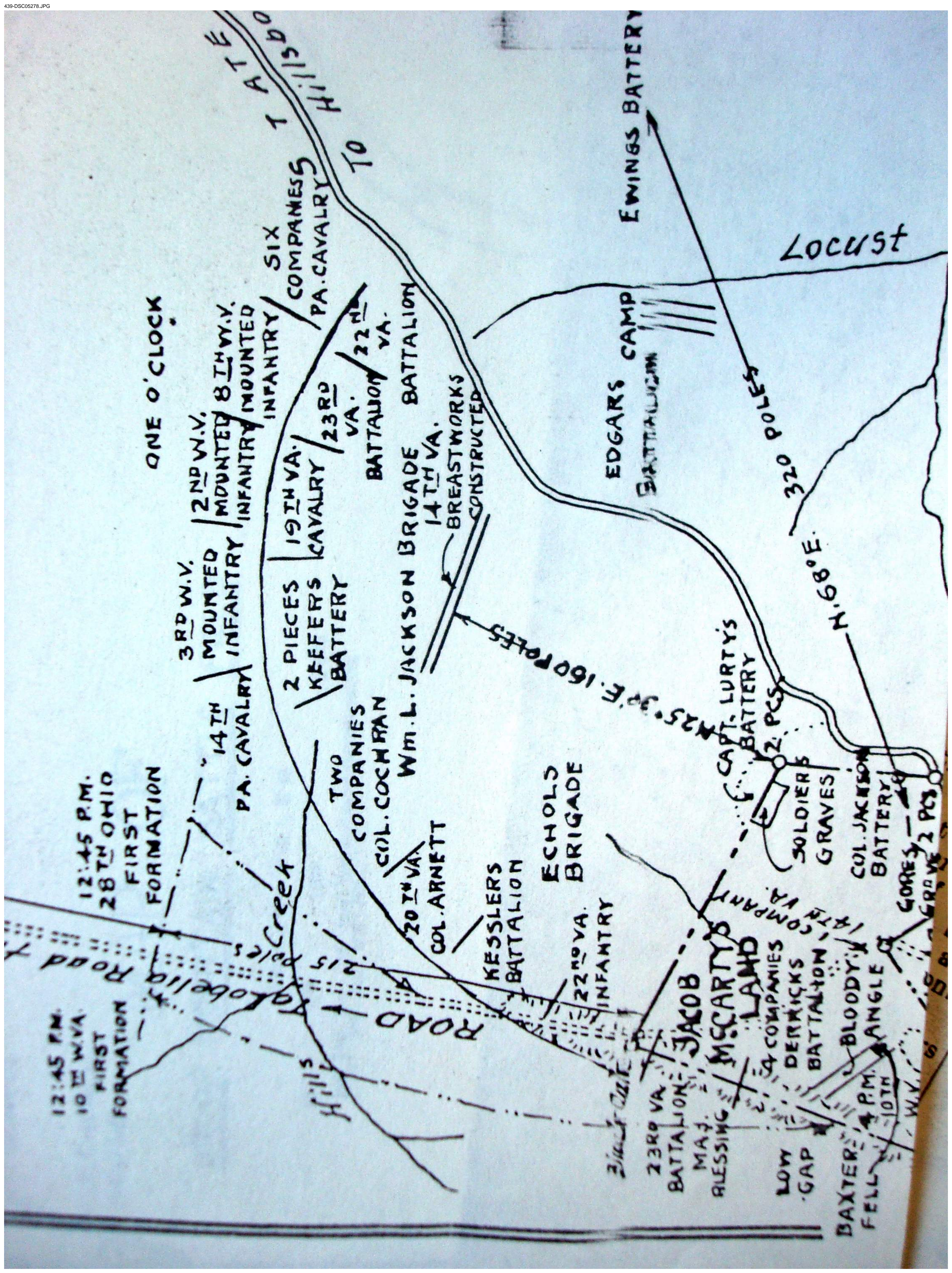
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12:45 P.M.
10TH W.V.
FIRST
FORMATION

Kobelia Road
POLES

12:45 P.M.
28TH OHIO
FIRST
FORMATION

Hills
TO

ONE O'CLOCK

3RD W.V.
MOUNTED
INFANTRY

2ND W.V.
MOUNTED
INFANTRY

14TH
PA. CAVALRY

2 PIECES
KEEFERS
BATTERY

SIX
COMPANIES
PA. CAVALRY

19TH VA.
CAVALRY

23RD
VA.
BATTALION

TWO
COMPANIES
COL. COCHRAN

Wm. L. JACKSON BRIGADE
14TH VA.
BREASTWORKS
CONSTRUCTED

20TH VA.
COL. ARNETT

KESSLERS
BATTALION

ECHOLS
BRIGADE

22ND VA.
INFANTRY

EWINGS BATTERY

EDGARS CAMP

23RD VA.
BATTALION
MAJ.
BLESSING

JACOB
MCCARTY'S
LAND

4 COMPANIES
DERICKS
BATTALION

BAXTER'S
FELL
10TH
W.V.

LOW
GAP

BLOODY
ANGLE

COL. JACKSON
BATTERY

SOLDIERS
GRAVES

CAPT. LURTY'S
BATTERY

2 PCS

GORES -
GROVE 2 PCS

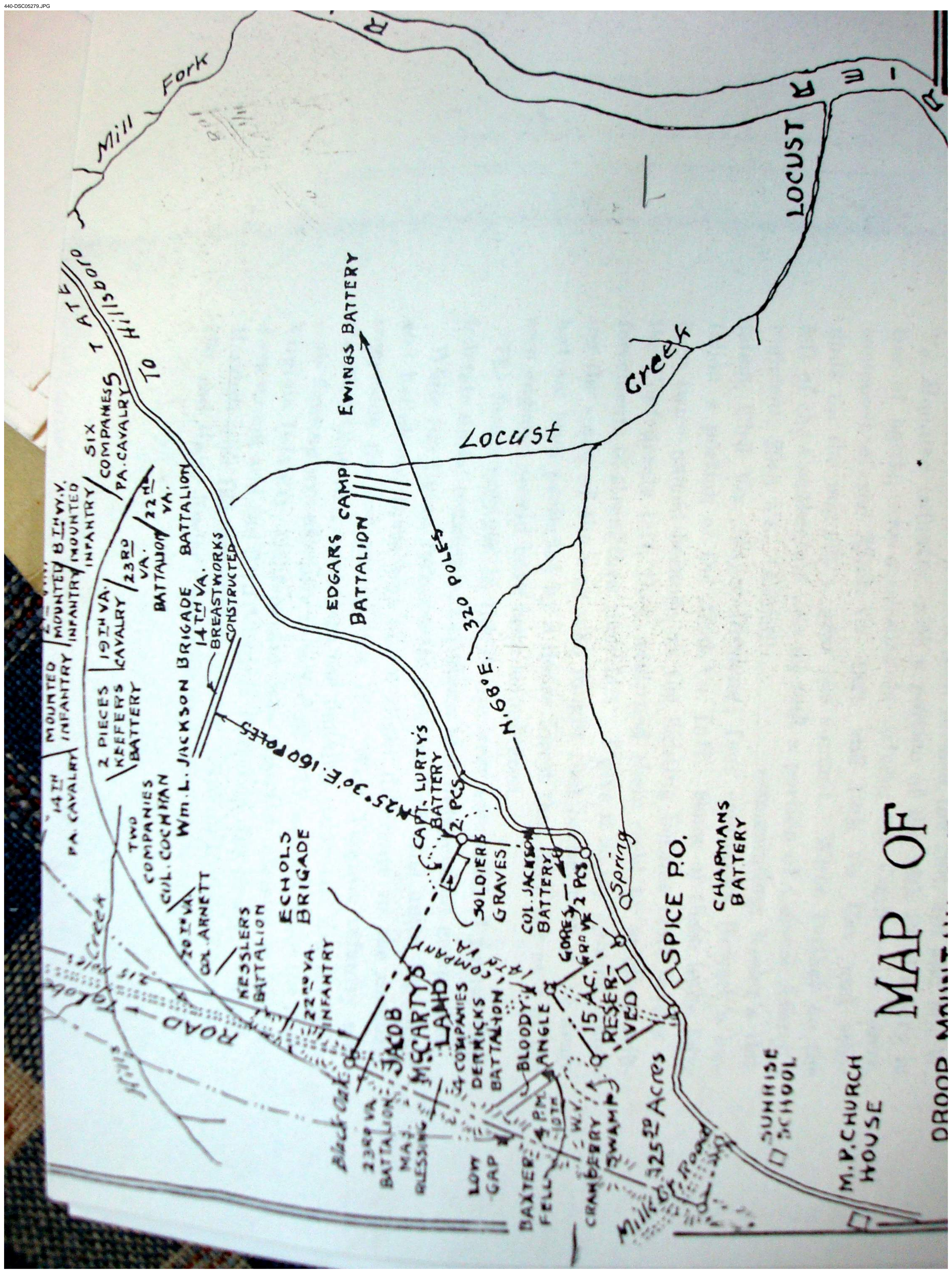
Locust

320 POLES

N. 68° E.

2500 FT. 160 FEET

66



MAP OF

OROOD MOUNTAIN

LOCUST

Creek

Locust

EWINGS BATTERY

EDGARS CAMP
BATTALION

320 POLES

N. 68° E.

N. 25° 30' E. 160 POLES

CHAPMANS
BATTERY

OSPRICE P.O.

M. P. CHURCH
HOUSE

SUMRISE
SCHOOL

325²⁰ ACRES

CRANBERRY SWAMP

BAXTER FELL

LOW GAP

JACOB
MCCARTY'S
LAND

23RD VA. BATTALION

22ND VA. INFANTRY

ECHOLD BRIGADE

NESSLERS BATTALION

ROAD

Wm. L. JACKSON BRIGADE

Wm. L. JACKSON BRIGADE

2 PIECES KEEFER'S BATTERY

MOUNTED INFANTRY

14TH PA. CAVALRY

19TH VA. CAVALRY

23RD VA. BATTALION

22ND VA. BATTALION

SIX COMPANIES PA. CAVALRY

TO HILLSBORO

Mill Fork

Black Oak

20TH VA. CO. L. COCHMAN

CO. ARNETT

TWO COMPANIES

20TH VA. CO. L. COCHMAN

14TH VA. BREASTWORKS CONSTRUCTED

CAPT. LURTY'S BATTERY

2 PCS

SOLDIER GRAVES

CUL. JACKSON BATTERY

2 PCS

Spring

15 AC. RESERVE

VED

CRANBERRY SWAMP

W.V. WY.

325²⁰ ACRES

ROAD



GEN'L. AVRELL'S HEADQUARTERS
 HILLSBORO
 FIELD HOSPITAL

**DROOP MOUNTAIN
 BATTLE GROUND**

SKIRMISH LINES
 YANKEE FLATS

To Hillsboro 5 Miles
 To Hillsboro 2.5 Miles

ROAD No. 22
 Road Miles
 Mill Fork
 BURNSIDE

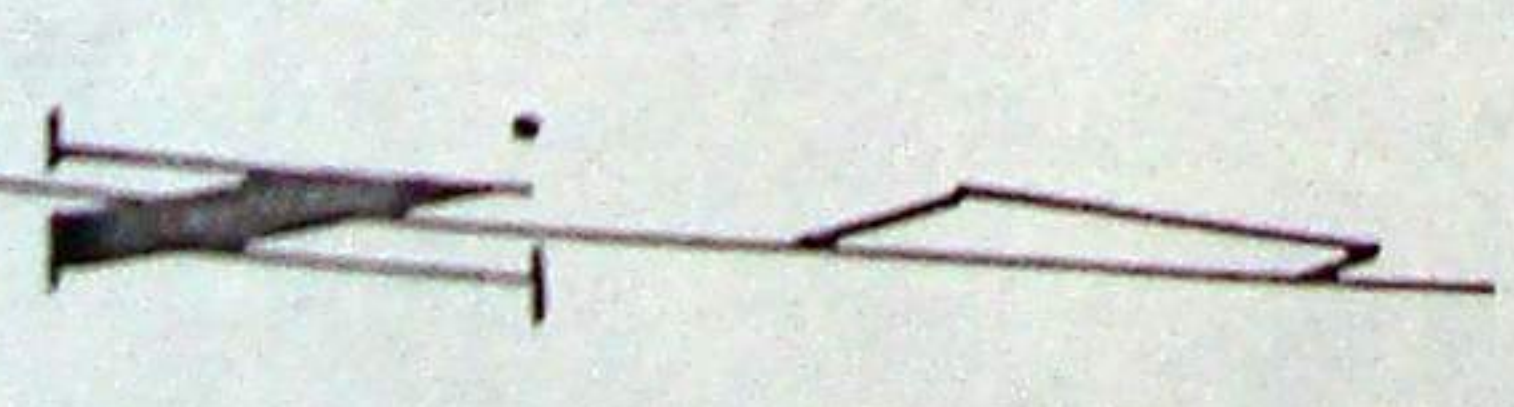
ONE O'CLOCK
 2ND W.V. MOUNTED INFANTRY
 3RD W.V. MOUNTED INFANTRY
 19TH VA. CAVALRY
 23RD VA. BATTALION
 SIX COMPANIES PA. CAVALRY
 Wm. L. JACKSON BRIGADE
 BREASTWORKS CONSTRUCTED

EWINGS BATTERY
 EDGARS CAMP BATTALION
 N. 68° E.
 320 FEET
 320 FEET

12:45 P.M. 10TH W.V. FIRST FORMATION
 12:45 P.M. 28TH OHIO FIRST FORMATION
 270 FEET
 270 FEET
 Lobelia Road from Property Line - 1/2 M.
 215 FEET

LOCUST
 N. 65° E.
 160 FEET
 CAPT. LURTY'S BATTERY
 2 PCS
 SOLDIERS GRAVES
 COL. JACKSON BATTERY
 2 PCS
 CORN GROVE
 14TH VA. INFANTRY
 ECHOLD BRIGADE
 KESSLERS BATTALION
 COL. ARNETT
 COL. COCHRAN
 T.W. JACKSON
 Wm. L. JACKSON
 BATTALION

23RD VA BATTALION MAJ. FLESSING
 JACOB MCCARTHY LAND
 4 COMPANIES DERRICKS BATTALION
 BLOODY BANGLE
 10TH VA. INFANTRY
 BAXTER FELL
 10TH VA. INFANTRY



camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 8th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel.....commanding, Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inft. Some of these units have been twice named because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

The forces engaged in the Battle were composed of twelve Confederate units, regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principle fighting was officially reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 200, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very

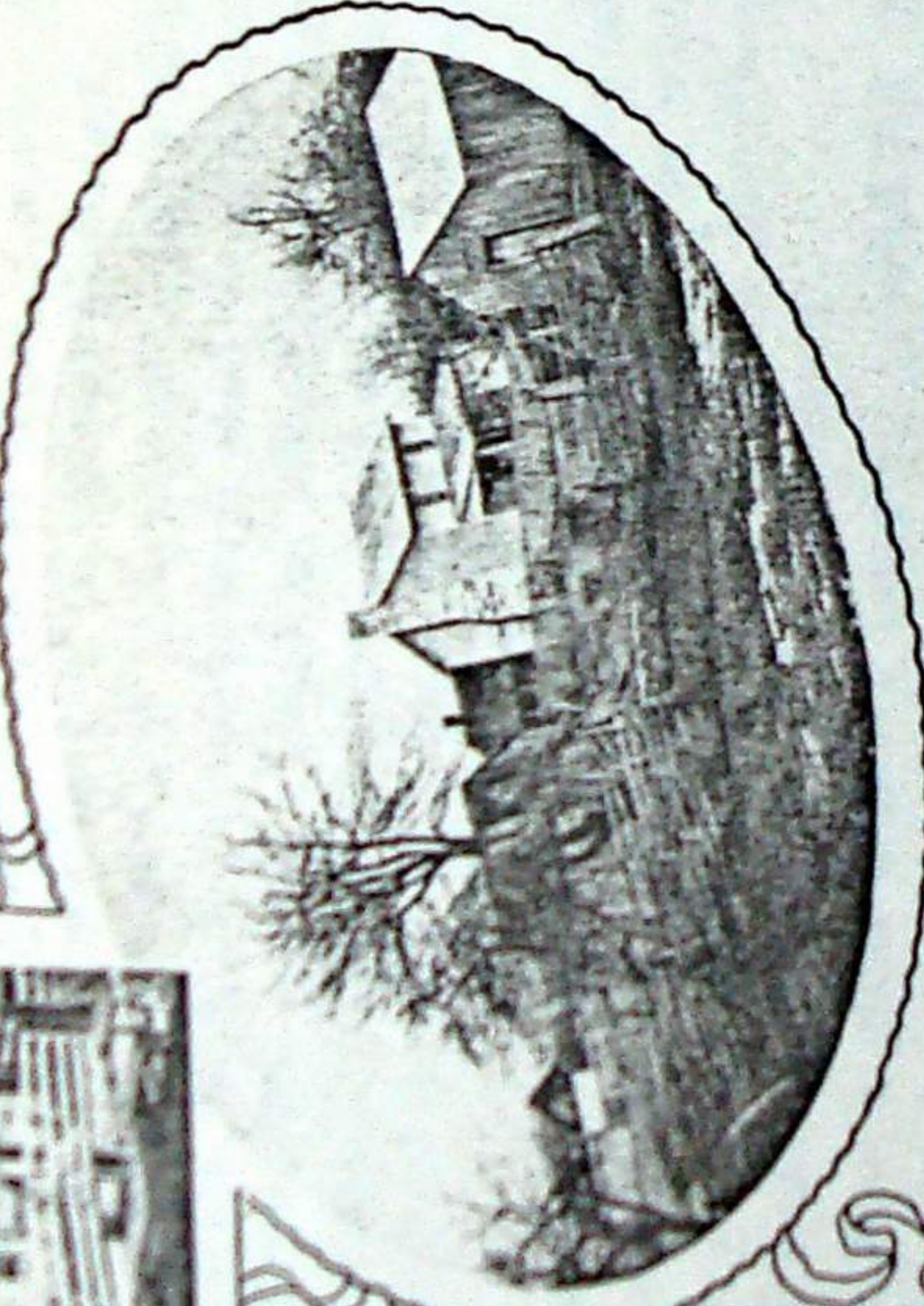
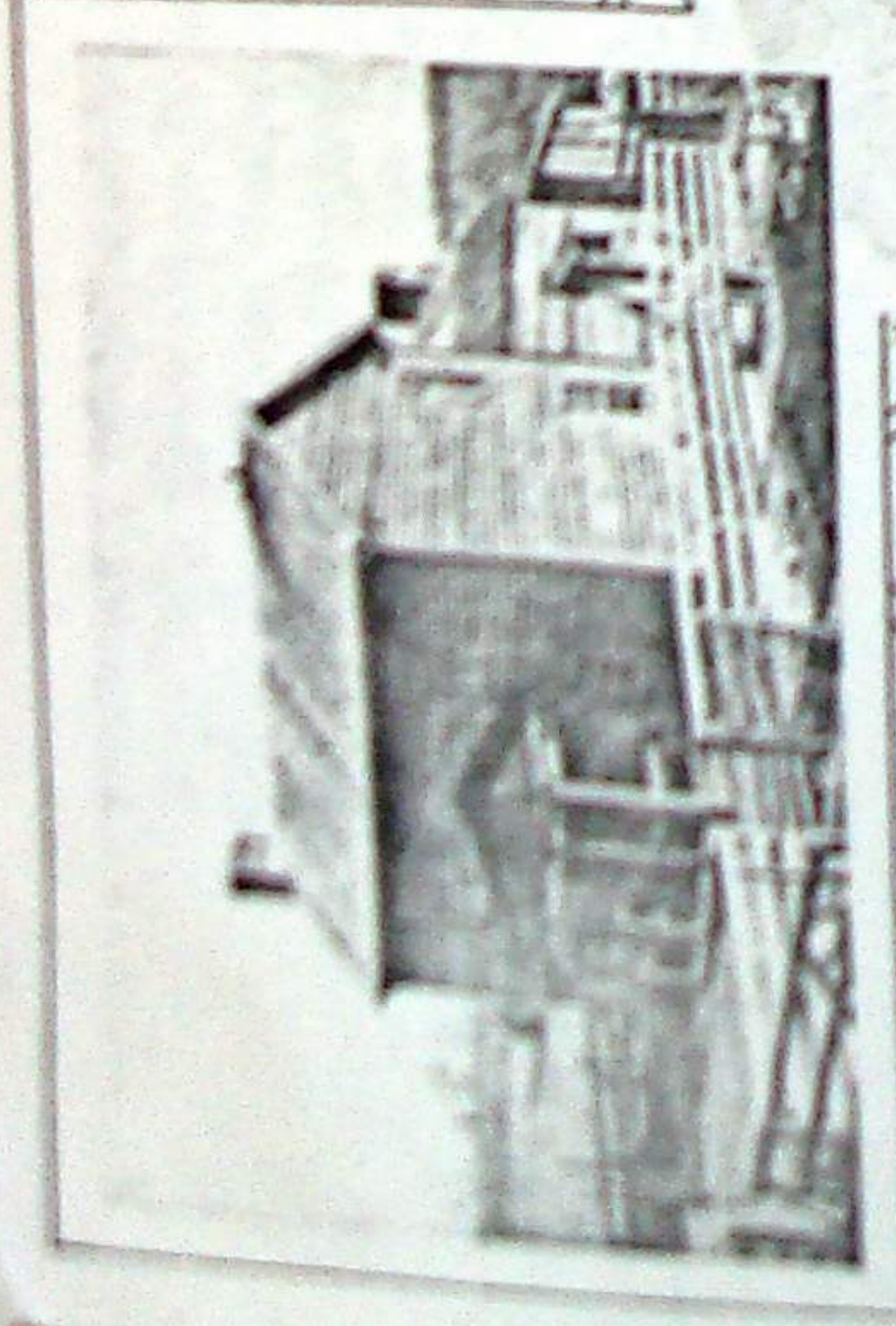
elegant fighting force. These units were concentrated on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. So it was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate general to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them such a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched and protected their lines by falling timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been impregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Virginia Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of a lack of number on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

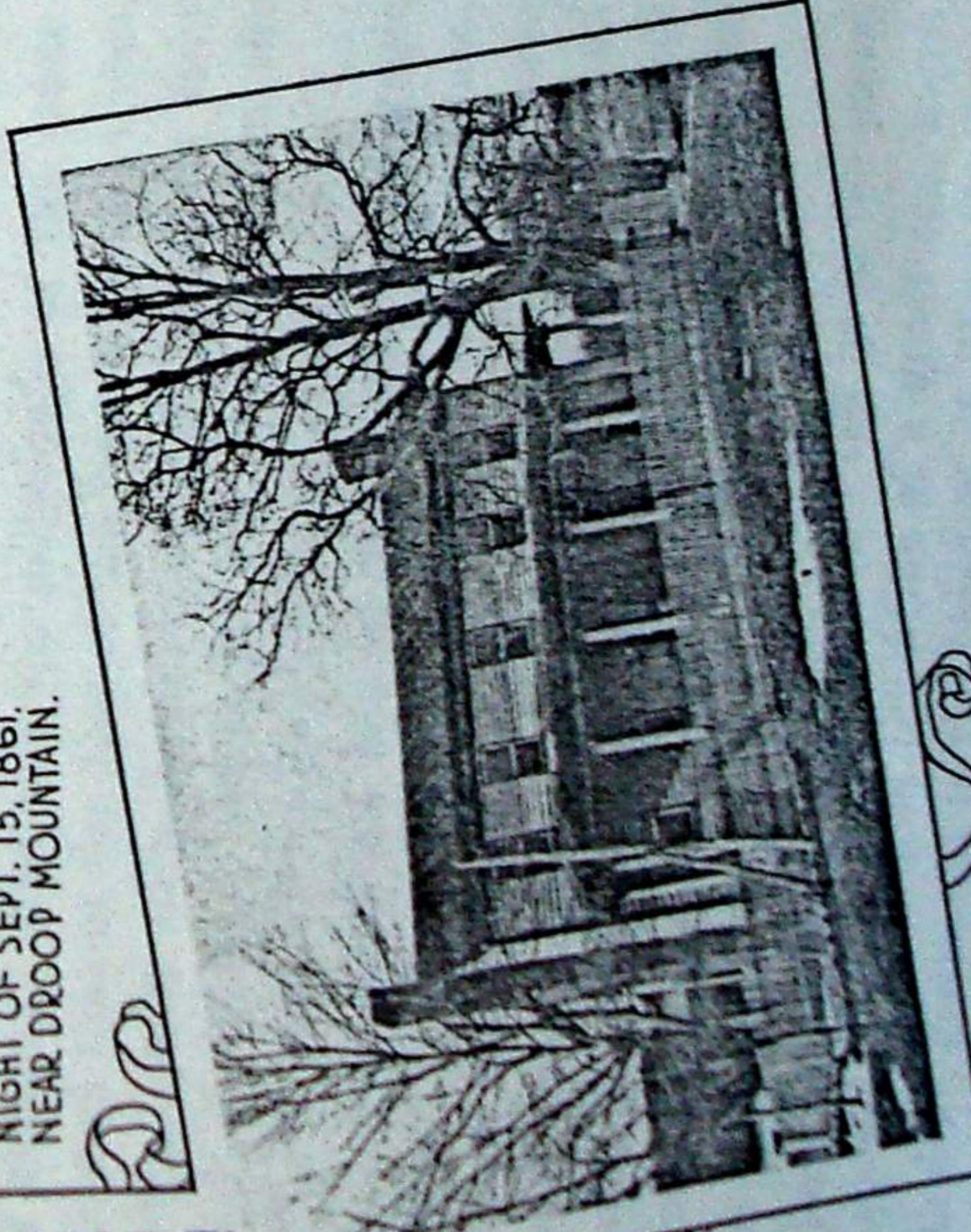
Now we come to another phase of the history of Droop Mountain. We reason from analogy and from prehistoric evidence, that Droop Mountain has been a battlefield of some prehistoric race, or by the early Indian tribes of America. We read from journals of Capt. Wm. Trent, who says that the Shawnees were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the region east of the Mississippi. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the Six Nations and for half a century they existed in various branches. The Miamis were a powerful nation. It is said they were the only Indians that ever waged a successful war with the Six Nations. The Delaware Nation consisted of five tribal organizations. They were driven by the Six Nations from the Delaware river to the Susquehanna, then to the Monongahela. Kercheval says that the Catawba and Delaware Indians were said to have been engaged in war when the valley of Virginia was first discovered. Several bloody battles were fought between those tribes on the Potomac. Other battles occurred on South Branch in Hampshire County, and near Franklin, Pendleton County, according to

TEMPORARY HOSPITAL, NOW SPACE POSTOFFICE. BAXTER DIED HERE, NOV. 7, 1863.



HOUSE IN WHICH MAJOR BAILEY DIED, NOV. 7, 1863.

TREE UNDER WHICH GEN. ROBT. E. LEE SLEPT, NIGHT OF SEPT. 15, 1861, NEAR DROOP MOUNTAIN.



AVERELL'S HOSPITAL—BEARD'S RESIDENCE AT HILLSBORO.

Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

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es ed ay the de- tive late ppl, I do sfully derate murder P. Me in r boy Sor ppl th re wa s ton w of th d word at it v good e leng

tradition, a battle occurred between the Indians on Cow Pasture River near Millborough in Bath county. We see that near and on every side of Droop Mountain Indian battles occurred, and there is every reason to believe that possibly many battles were fought on the Droop. It was not only a fortress, but a supply of war material rich and inexhaustible.

I am impressed with the thought that in the ages long gone by that some of the western or southern tribes of North America had one of their strong defensive outposts on the Droop Mountain.

There are unmistakable evidences of it in the rich valley at the foot of the mountain where in the rich, level land supplies were abundant and where their warriors could be assembled to a naturally fortified position in the plains at the foot of the Droop Mountain excavations, where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

And on the top of the mountain in a field by the edge of the lake the ground is covered with spears and arrowheads, a field where the natives have gathered thousands of the Indian handiwork and the chips and spalls to this day cover the ground.

This must have been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest by the side of a lake where the waters flow up cold and sparkling. I imagine in this ancient lake there were countless millions of trout from which these warriors feasted and from the valleys and rivers. And rich hunting ground. Supplies were abundant to feed the warriors, whose duty it was to protect the rich hunting grounds. And this the metropolis of the assembled tribes it is known that in the ages of the past different tribes, fierce and warlike, fought with desperation and relentless fury over the possession of favored territory. For time unknown the tribes of the north and those of the south were at enmity.

Droop Mountain was doubtless one of the strongest strategic position on the spurs of the Allegheny mountains. Droop Mountain points with unmistakable evidence to the metropolis of some powerful and war-like nation and we doubt not that the very ground over which the soldiers of the sixties fought with such courage and daring was one made red with the blood of the savage, a war-like people long since extinct.

The evidence they left is crude but distinct. Let us in the name of a history-loving people, living in the pride of a great age, mark this historic battlefield, dedicated to the freedom of West Virginia, with monuments of granite embellished in art that will forever commemorate the imperishable memory and heroism of the sons of our beloved State.